

# **Appendix B**

## **RCW 43.70**



**RCW 43.70.052 Hospital discharge data—Financial reports-Data retrieval—American Indian health data\***

(1) To promote the public interest consistent with the purposes of chapter 492, Laws of 1993 as amended by chapter 267, Laws of 1995, the department shall continue to require hospitals to submit hospital financial and patient discharge information, which shall be collected, maintained, analyzed, and disseminated by the department. The department shall, if deemed cost-effective and efficient, contract with a private entity for any or all parts of data collection. Data elements shall be reported in conformance with a uniform reporting system established by the department. This includes data elements identifying each hospital's revenues, expenses, contractual allowances, charity care, bad debt, other income, total units of inpatient and outpatient services, and other financial information reasonably necessary to fulfill the purposes of this section. Data elements relating to use of hospital services by patients shall be the same as those currently compiled by hospitals through inpatient discharge abstracts. The department shall encourage and permit reporting by electronic transmission or hard copy as is practical and economical to reporters.

(2) In identifying financial reporting requirements, the department may require both annual reports and condensed quarterly reports from hospitals, so as to achieve both accuracy and timeliness in reporting, but shall craft such requirements with due regard of the data reporting burdens of hospitals.

(3) The health care data collected, maintained, and studied by the department shall only be available for retrieval in original or processed form to public and private requesters and shall be available within a reasonable period of time after the date of request. The cost of retrieving data for state officials and agencies shall be funded through the state general appropriation. The cost of retrieving data for individuals and organizations engaged in research or private use of data or studies shall be funded by a fee schedule developed by the department that reflects the direct cost of retrieving the data or study in the requested form.

(4) The department shall, in consultation and collaboration with the federally recognized tribes, urban or other Indian health service organizations, and the federal area Indian health service, design, develop, and maintain an American Indian-specific health data, statistics information system. The department rules regarding confidentiality shall apply to safeguard the information from inappropriate use or release.

(5) All persons subject to the data collection requirements of this section shall comply with department requirements established by rule in the acquisition of data. [1995 c 267 § 1.]

**NOTES:**

**Captions not law—1995 c 267:** “Captions as used in this act constitute no part of the law.” [1995 c 267 § 16.]

**Severability 1995 c 167:** “If any provision of this act or its application to any person or circumstance is held invalid, the remainder of the act or the application of the provision to other persons or circumstances is not affected.” [1995 c 267 § 17.]

**Effective dates—1995 a 267:** “This act is necessary for the immediate preservation of the public peace, health, or safety, or support of the state government and its existing public institutions, and shall take effect July 1, 1995, except sections 8 through 11 of this act which shall take effect immediately [May 8, 1995],” [1995 c 267 § 18.]

